United Nations SSC/15/L.3

South-South cooperation for development

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High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation
Fifteenth session
New York, 29 May-1 June 2007

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Note by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

1. The fifteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation will follow the format and working methods introduced at the eleventh session of the Committee, held in May 1999, which include the following:

(a) A half-day organizational meeting to be held not later than three weeks before the biennial session of the Committee. The organizational meeting will elect the Bureau of the Committee and adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work;

(b) The duration of the general debate on agenda items 2 and 3 of the provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the Committee (SSC/15/L.2) will be limited to three plenary meetings and will conclude at the end of the morning meeting of the second day of the session. More specifically:

(i) A list of speakers will be opened at the headquarters of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (fax: 212-906-6429, or 212-906-6352; tel.: 212-906-5737; e-mail: southsouth@undp.org) on Tuesday, 1 May 2007, and closed at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 29 May 2007;

(ii) In accordance with the working methods of the Committee, statements in the general debate will be limited to 8 minutes for representatives of member States and 6 minutes for other participants. To ensure that this limit is respected, the President will switch on the red light when the time limit is reached;

(iii) To save time, several States or groups of States sharing common positions may wish to consider presenting joint statements. Delegations wishing to have statements circulated to all participants are requested to provide 300 copies to the secretariat, which will arrange for their circulation in the language or languages received;

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(c) To make the debate interactive, the President may request the Director of the Unit to respond, from time to time, as appropriate, to observations and suggestions made by delegations during the debate and will subsequently invite comments from the floor, either on the Director's response or on the issues raised in the statements of respective delegations;

(d) A recent additional feature of the Committee's deliberations is a thematic discussion, including presentations by various experts on the selected theme. This format is designed to stimulate interactive exchanges among delegations and between delegations and the secretariat. The theme for the fifteenth session of the Committee is "The role of the United Nations in strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation". The recommendations emanating from the thematic discussion will also be incorporated in the report of the Committee and, as appropriate, reflected in its decisions;

(e) The session will be scheduled for a duration of four days prior to the annual session of the Executive Board of the UNDP/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In conformity with the arrangements set out above, the general debate will be conducted in plenary meetings on 29 and 30 May 2007;

(f) On the basis of the views and suggestions expressed during the debate, the Working Group will meet as of the third working day of the session to elaborate draft decisions and recommendations.

Draft programme of work

2. A draft programme of work for the session is contained in the annex. The Committee may wish to decide that, once the general debate and the thematic discussion in plenary meetings are concluded and if sufficient meeting time remains, the Working Group be convened immediately thereafter, thereby ensuring full utilization of the available conference services.

3. All meetings will be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In view of the limited time and services at the Committee's disposal, it is important that all meetings start promptly at the scheduled time. In an effort to make the best use of all services and in line with the practice of the General Assembly and other bodies, it is also suggested that, for the current session, the Committee waive the stipulation in rule 16 of its rules of procedure (TCDC/2/Rev.1) that the President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the States participating are present.

4. Rule 10 of the Committee's rules of procedure stipulates that its officers are the President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. The Working Group may wish to follow the practice of previous sessions, whereby the Vice-President presiding over the Working Group would serve as both Chairman and Rapporteur. Based on previous practice and taking into account General Assembly decision 33/417 on the organization of the work of United Nations bodies, the regional groups are urged to start consultations on the nomination of candidates to fill those elective posts well in advance of the organizational meeting with a view to agreeing on a slate of candidates equal to the number of positions to be filled, thus allowing all officers of the Committee to be elected by acclamation at that meeting and dispensing with the requirement for secret balloting.

Annex

Draft programme of work

A. Plenary meetings

Tuesday 29 May 2007		*Wednesday 30 May 2007*		*Thursday 31 May 2007*		*Friday 1 June 2007*	
a.m.	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*
Opening of the session (item 1) General debate and review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries and the decisions of the Committee (item 2) Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme: (a) Implementation by the United Nations development system of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning technical cooperation among developing countries; (b) Management and use of resources for the promotion of South-South cooperation; (c) Organizational and supportive arrangements for South-South cooperation (item 3)	Items 2 and 3 (*continued*)	Items 2 and 3 (*concluded*)	Thematic discussion: "The role of the United Nations in strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation" (item 4)		—	—	Adoption of the report of the Working Group (item 5) Approval of the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Committee (item 6) Other matters (item 7) Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifteenth session (item 8)

B. Working Group

Thursday 31 May 2007		*Friday 1 June 2007*	
a m	*p m*	*a m*	*p m*
Election of the Rapporteur	Items 2-4 (*continued*)	Items 2-4 (*concluded*)	Plenary meeting
Organization of work	Draft decision(s)	Approval of all draft decisions	
Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the decisions of the High-level Committee (item 2)			
Consideration of reports of the Administrator of UNDP (item 3)			
Draft decision(s)			